

DW 01-081

PENNICHUCK WATER WORKS, INC.

Petition for Permanent and Temporary Rate Increase

Order Approving Procedural Schedule

O R D E R N O. 23,792

October 4, 2001

APPEARANCES: McLane, Graf, Raulerson and Middleton by Steven V. Camerino, Esq. on behalf of Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. and Marcia A. B. Thunberg, Esq., on behalf of Staff of the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. (Pennichuck or the Petitioner) filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission), on April 17, 2001, a notice of intent to file rate schedules. Pennichuck serves the southern New Hampshire area, operating a core system that includes Nashua, Amherst, Merrimack, and portions of Milford, Hollis and Bedford, as well as a number of independent community systems serving portions of Epping, Derry, Bedford, Milford, Plaistow, Newmarket, and Salem.

On June 8, 2001, Pennichuck filed a petition for a 20.09% increase in permanent rates attributable to an overall increase in annual revenues of \$2,506,131, to be effective on July 8, 2001. Pennichuck also filed, on June 8, 2001, a Petition for Temporary Rates in the amount of \$1,137,610, or

9.12% over current rates.

A prehearing conference was held July 12, 2001, and by Order No. 23,748 (July 30, 2001), the Commission approved the proposed procedural schedule. A hearing on temporary rates was held on July 31, 2001. On August 31, 2001, the Commission issued Order No. 23,770, approving Pennichuck's petition for temporary rates on a bills-rendered basis, effective September 8, 2001.

On September 20, 2001, Commission Staff, with concurrence from Pennichuck, submitted a request to suspend the procedural schedule. On September 28, 2001, the Commission Staff, again with concurrence from Pennichuck, submitted a revised procedural schedule that preserves the previously approved hearing dates.

The revised procedural schedule submitted to the Commission for approval is as follows:

Data Requests, Second Set To PWW	Due October 12, 2001
Data Responses From PWW	Due October 26, 2001
Staff Testimony	Due November 30, 2001
Settlement Discussions	December 12, 2001
Data Requests To Staff	December 14, 2001
Data Responses From Staff	December 28, 2001
Settlement Discussions	January 3, 2002
Rebuttal Testimony From PWW	January 10, 2002
Hearing	February 4, 5, & 6, 2002

II. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

Upon consideration, we find the proposed procedural

schedule is reasonable and will, therefore, approve it for the duration of the proceeding.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED that the procedural schedule outlined above is approved and shall govern the remainder of this proceeding.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fourth day of October, 2001.

Douglas L. Patch
Chairman

Susan S. Geiger
Commissioner

Nancy Brockway
Commissioner

Attested by:

Thomas B. Getz
Executive Director and Secretary